

For Immediate Release
Contact: Catherine Ribeiro
April 21, 2009
(202) 225-8020

NATIONAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Tierney Comments on GAO Report on Key Issues for Congressional Oversight of Afghanistan

Washington, D.C. – Today, Rep. John F. Tierney (D-Mass.), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, issued the following statement about a newly-released Government Accountability Office (GAO) report in relation to his sustained oversight of U.S. efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan:

“The GAO report serves as an important reminder of the critical need for sustained, constructive oversight of U.S. programs and policies in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As the Obama Administration sends more troops, diplomats, and aid workers, we in Congress need to step up our oversight. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration to identify the lessons learned from the past seven years to ensure that American taxpayer dollars are used strategically, efficiently, and effectively. Our country’s security demands nothing less.”

According to the GAO’s report, the overall security situation in Afghanistan has not improved after \$32 billion in U.S.-provided reconstruction assistance. The GAO states in the report that Afghanistan is “an urgent oversight issue facing this Congress” and suggests additional oversight be made in the areas of U.S. and international commitments, the security environment, Afghan military and police forces, counternarcotics efforts, economic development, government capacity, accountability for U.S.-provided weapons, and contractor performance.

During the past two years, Chairman Tierney has led three Congressional delegations to Pakistan and Afghanistan and held eleven related hearings.

More details of the Chairman's work on these issues can be found on the National Security Subcommittee's website: <http://nationalsecurity.oversight.house.gov/>.